MIDVAAL
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

POLICY: PROVISION OF FREE BASIC WATER

2017/2018 FINANCIAL YEAR

POLICY: PROVISION OF FREE BASIC WATER

1. APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This policy is applicable to the Residential stands (Res. 1) and Agricultural < 16 Ha and Approved Indigents residing within Midvaal Local Municipality

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The objectives of the policy are –

- To realise everyone's constitutional right of access to sufficient water
- To grant every household an equitable and affordable basic (free) portion of the water and waste water services
- To support the poor, approved as Indigents in terms of the Council's relevant policy, with an additional basic (free) portion of the water services
- To ensure compliance to the applicable terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, the Local Government Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 and the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations contained in General Notice 393 in Government Gazette 3241 of 17 April 2009.

3. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

3.1 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996

Section 27 (1) (b) determines –

Everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water

3.2 Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000

Section 74 (2) (c) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act; 32 of 2000 determines:

"(c) poor households must have access to at least basic services through –

(i) Tariffs that cover only operating and maintenance cost,

(ii) Special tariffs or life line tariffs for low levels of use or consumption of services or for basic levels of service: or

(iii) Any other direct or indirect method of subsidisation of tariffs for poor households"

4. FREE BASIC SERVICES PRINCIPLES

4.1 The right of access to basic water

Everyone has the right to have access to sufficient water. Midvaal Local Municipality is committed to promoting sustainable access to a basic water supply by subsidising the ongoing operating and maintenance costs of a basic water supply service.

4.2 Consumer Responsibilities

The right to basic water supply services come with a corresponding responsibility, namely, to use water services responsibly and with due care.

4.3 User Charges (Retail)

Charging for water services is essential in order to generate sufficient funds for operating, maintaining and investing in water systems but at the same time recognising the need for affordability. Sound business principles within a sound subsidy frame work are therefore essential. This includes good governance, sound accounting, adequate provision for depreciation, adequate spending on maintenance and replacement of assets, effective and efficient use of resources and income (including subsidies) which covers expenses.

5. APPLICATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Free Kiloliters per month

The block tariff adopted by Council for the use of the water services exclusively for household purposes, provides for every household to receive free kiloliters per month as stipulated below:

1. Indigents 6 kl free per month
2. Residential and Agricultural < 16 Ha 4 kl free per month.

5.2 Implementation Date

The policy will be effective as from 1 July 2017.